

Wilderness Trail Report – Young's Valley and Clear Creek Trails to No Mans Trailhead

Name of the person who filled out the form: Molly Travis & Taylor Cochran

Date (s) of visit: 7/24/14-7/27/14

Trail Name: Clear Creek National Recreation Area/Trail

Starting at Young's Valley TH and ending at No Mans TH (~22mi thru-hike)

Were there trail obstructions? **Yes**

Were these obstructions navigable by stock animals? **No***

There are several fallen trees on the Clear Creek Trail. It is not recommended for stock animals to travel beyond Young's Valley.

* For the most part, fallen trees were not navigable by stock animals, see descriptions.

There is one trail obstruction (fallen tree) between Young's Valley Trailhead and Trout Camp. It is located about 1mi or less from Trout Camp (coming from the north). This obstruction is probably not navigable by stock animals.



There are two trail obstructions (fallen trees) between Trout Camp and Wilderness Falls. They are both around the halfway point (2 miles) between Trout Camp and Wilderness Falls. The first tree is possibly navigable by stock animals as there is a small pathway to the left of the tree. The second tree is navigable if stock animals have a big enough girth to step over the log. The log is about 2.5 ft. high.



There are three trail obstructions (fallen trees) between Wilderness Falls and the junction of Clear Creek Trail and the West Fork Clear Creek Trail (going to Harrington Lake/South Kelsey Trail). These trees are only navigable by stock if stock goes off trail and walks around the obstructions, however the forest can be dense in some areas.





There is one trail obstruction (fallen tree) between the junction of Clear Creek Trail and the West Fork Clear Creek Trail and No Man's Trailhead (end of Clear Creek Trail). It is high off the ground so stock animals cannot navigate it by stepping over or crouching under it. The right edge is also steep so there is no place to walk around it.



Describe grazing areas/grasses growing.

Young's Valley Meadow is great for grazing. It is huge (2+ acres) of open meadow with some conifers in the middle areas and surrounding the meadow. I do not know the types of grasses growing but there is an abundance of seed heads and post-flowering grasses.

Was there water access? Yes

Describe the nature of the water access. (Streams, lakes, spigots, dried up water sources, etc.)

For stock, Clear Creek runs adjacent to/through Young's Valley Meadow. In general, the water level of Clear Creek is much lower than observed 5-6 weeks ago.

For general water usage, most side creeks (even mapped ephemeral ones) and Clear Creek are full of enough water for easy access.

Campsite locations:

- Campsite quality—surface comfort (flat or sloping, smooth or bumpy, dry or wet, dirt, rock, or sand, etc.), scenic views from site, shaded or open, proximity to water, ease of access to water, water quantity and quality, annoyances (bugs, cattle, cow pies, etc.)
- Campsite quantity—number and size of sites, number of people/tents that can fit in each site

There are numerous campsites surrounding Young's Valley Meadow that can hold at least 8 separate tents and campsites continue around the meadow past the sign to Clear Creek Trail. Most of them seem shaded as the trees surrounding the meadow cover them.

Trout Camp also has many campsites. There are 4-5 campsites near the junction of the northern Clear Creek trail, westbound trail to Devil's Punchbowl, and eastbound trail to Wilderness Falls. They are flat and relatively smooth with little debris and consist mainly of dirt. One campsite on the way to Devil's Punchbowl is more in the sun and is located at an overlook of a great swimming hole. Further down from the junction, there is a small footpath that leads to an additional 3 campsites that are a bit more hidden. Most are flat except for the one at the end of the gully that has a slightly sloping surface. Again, they are mainly soft dirt with little debris and are smooth and comfortable. All campsites are close to water, but it is easier to access the water from the upper campsites. There are some bugs (mosquitos, bees, and flies) but they were not very bothersome.

At Trout camp one can find a deep pool in the creek if one walks east of the largest campsite. It is a pleasant place to relax, and fish for small trout.

Most sites can fit between 2-3 tents, and assumedly between 2-5 people. There is a great group site at the junction that could hold 5-6 tents.

Past Trout Camp, there is a campsite right before the creek crossing to Wilderness Falls that is close to water and very sunny. You could probably fit 3-7 tents there as tent sites continue further inland up a small footpath. There is also one campsite at Wilderness Falls that has a beautiful view of the falls and seems pretty shaded and flat. I would love to camp there!

There is a campsite right before and right after the junction to the West Fork Clear Creek Trail. The one before the junction is very shaded and covered by a blanket of madrone leaves. The ground looks flat although there may be rocks, twigs, etc. covered by the dense layer of debris. It could probably hold 2-3 tents. The site after the junction is across the creek and looks very flat. This site looks preferable to the one close by. It could probably hold 2-3 tents and is mainly dirt and clear of debris.

Past the junction, there are a few more campsites spread out about a mile apart from each other. The best ones seem to be between Red Hill Creek and Ten Mile Creek. Some are right along Clear Creek and look very flat, and others are located a bit on a bluff above Clear Creek. They could probably hold between 4-5 tents at each site. A very large campsite well established with easy access to the creek can be found just before the confluence of Little Bear Valley Creek & Red Hill Creek.

Ten Mile Creek also has a very established camping area with a picnic table just outside the Wilderness Boundary. It could hold between 6-7 tents.

List wildlife seen and general location of sighting (mosquitos, bears, snakes, etc.)

There were deer seen along the trail to Young's Valley and at Trout Camp. There were also a few gopher snakes (between 2-3 feet) in the sunnier areas on the trail. Many birds were heard and seen, including Stellar's Jays, Mountain Quails, and Northern Flickers, woodpeckers, chipmunks, and Western fence lizards frequently spotted along the trail.

Trail conditions:

How easy was the trail to follow? (Unlabeled forks, absent cairns, indistinct tread, etc.)

The trail was very easy to follow and had very distinct tread. The only difficult section was the creek crossing before Wilderness Falls because it is not intuitive to go across Clear Creek and there was no cairn or marker.

Were there trail signs? (At forks, at trailhead)

There was no sign at the Young's Valley Trailhead, only a sign saying Klamath National Forest Wilderness Boundary at the boundary line. The first sign saying Clear Creek was at Young's Valley Meadow. There were trail signs throughout the whole trail except for at the forks to West Clear Creek Trail (there was a rock pile and stick indicating a split).

How navigable were creek crossings?

All of the creek crossings were navigable because of the low water level. Most were very narrow, but the wider creek crossings were still pretty easy and only required rock hopping across them.

Were there any burned over areas?

There were no really burned over areas but there was evidence of a previous fire closer to the No Mans Trailhead.

Did you see any wildflowers or poison oak?

There are very pretty Darlingtonia patches although their flowers are past their prime. Striped coralroot was present along forested areas of the trail; the nodding capsules are all that were left on the stalks. A variety of asters are still in flower along the trail including pearly everlasting, thistles and knap weed? Common snowberry can also be found near No Mans TH. Poison oak is common after Wilderness Falls as the elevation decreases to 1000-1700ft. It is mainly off the trail or on the sides of it and doesn't seem to pose much of a problem to hikers.